

Missouri Office of Information Technology

Browser for Internet Access Standard	Document Number: ITPS0006
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1.0 Purpose

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Information Technology Advisory Board (ITAB) recognize the need to have an efficient method of access to the Internet with the proper technical support. This is intended to advise agencies on the recommendation of ITAB and the establishment of State of Missouri standards regarding browsers for Internet Access.

2.0 Scope

Effective October 19, 1995, the Office of Information Technology with the concurrence of the Information Technology Advisory Board, established Netscape as the State Government standard for accessing the Internet within the executive branch of state government.

Effective August 4, 1997 Microsoft Explorer was added to the list of standard products used for internet access.

3.0 Background

In 1995, The State of Missouri began looking for an efficient method of accessing the internet with the proper technical support service, preferably with an 800 service option. This search lead to the establishment of a browser standard for internet access.

4.0 References

- 4.1 October 19, 1995 Letter from CIO to Purchasing Director
- 4.2 August 4, 1997 E-mail from CIO to Purchasing

5.0 Revision History

Date	Description of Change
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10/19/1995	Original standard issued
08/04/1997	Added Microsoft Explorer

6.0 Definitions

N/A

7.0 Inquiries

Direct inquiries about this document to:

Office of Information Technology
Truman Building, Room 560
301 W. High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Voice: 573-526-7741
FAX: 573-526-7747

Browser for Internet Access Standard

The following products are named as the standard for State of Missouri access to the internet:

- Netscape 10/19/1995
- Microsoft Explorer 08-04-1997



State of Missouri

Mel Carnahan
Governor

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Michael M. Benzen
Chief Information Officer

October 19, 1995

Joyce Murphy, Director
OA Purchasing
Truman Building, Room 580
Jefferson City, MO 65102

There is an ever increasing need for state agencies to have efficient method of access to the Internet with the proper technical support. The Office of Information Technology recognizes a standard method of access needs to be established. Therefore, upon recommendation of the Information Technology Advisory Board, This office is establishing Netscape as the state standard for accessing the Internet within thhe executive branch of state government. Please use this letter as your authority to establish a statewide contract for Netscape products for Internet access.

Attached is correspondence from Netscape identifying the required products and options. The Netscape corporation states they are a sole-source for providing the required products and have verbally agreed to provide monthly reporting by SAM account codes to indicate the state's activity. Once the contract is established, it should also allow for other governmental agencies to acquire Netscape products. The vendor(s) MUST provide dial-in technical support service, preferably with an 800 service option. To qualify for a reduced price, we're projecting the state will acquire five thousand copies of Netscape products over the next twelve month period. The contract should allow for upgrades as an agency option.

If you are in agreement to implement Netscape as the state standard for Internet access, please proceed with the issuance of an IFB for the Netscape products. The award will likely not be impacted by the successful award of a prime vendor contract.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the points of this letter, please give me a call at 526-7741.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Benzen
Chief Information Officer

From : "Benzen, Mike" BenzeM@mail.oit.state.mo.us
To: "BoegeK@OAHOST.STATE.MO.US" BoegeK@OAHOST.STATE.MO.US
Date: Mon, 4 Aug 1997 14:17:54 -0500
Subject: RE: Internet Access

Karen-

Well.....it's like this. The Netscape standard turned out to be relatively short lived, as Microsoft began fighting Netscape by giving away their Internet Explorer. Thus, we found ourselves with a great contract with Netscape, but a free product that came with Win95 and NT. When we loaded NT on my machine, there was Microsoft Explorer, with the exact same functionality. Do I erase the free Microsoft product and pay \$15 to Netscape? No, I run with what's free and does the job.

Let's keep the Netscape contract for those that want it, and let the customer decide between the two.

IT looks like the company can break one of our standards, all they have to do is give away their product. It's hard to stay with a standard that costs money when you can get the same thing from someone else for free.

Mike

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